

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1-13 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1-13. Claims 1-6 and 8-9 were indicated as allowed. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

The outstanding Office Action objected to Claims 7 and 10-13 as being in improper form. In response, Claims 7 and 10-13 are amended to clarify and/or change their dependencies. Specifically, Claims 7 and 10-13 are now clearly single dependent: Claims 7, 11, 12, and 13 depend from Claim 6; and Claim 10 depends from Claim 9. Claims 1-13 are further amended to comply better with U.S. claim drafting practice, for example by deleting the reference numerals and replacing "characterized by" with "wherein." In light of their formal nature, the changes to the claims do not raise a question of new matter.

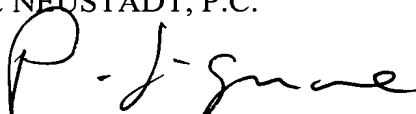
Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-13 is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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